

## Grover Cleveland (1837-1908)

At the end of Grover Cleveland's first term, his wife told the White House servants to take care of things while she and her husband were gone. They'd be sure to return, she said, in four years! It turned out to be true—Grover Cleveland was the only president to serve a term, be out a term, and then serve a second term.

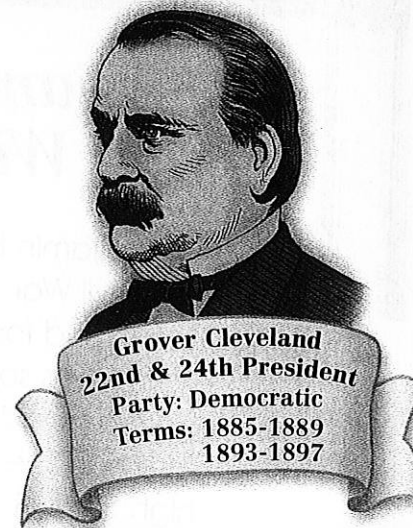
Cleveland was known as an honest reformer. He cleaned up government as Buffalo's mayor, then as governor of New York. In 1884, Cleveland ran for president as a Democrat, receiving extra support from a reform-minded group of Republicans called the "mugwumps."

In office, Cleveland enforced the Pendleton Civil Service Act, which had been signed by President Arthur. Thousands of jobs once given out as political favors were made available to the public. Cleveland made the railroads give back land they had claimed illegally. He vetoed bills that would have given pensions to Civil War veterans who had not been wounded. Cleveland wanted a low tariff, but he was unable to achieve this.

In 1888, Cleveland ran for reelection against Benjamin Harrison. It was a tight race, but Cleveland lost. Four years later, Cleveland rode a large vote into office again, defeating Harrison this time. Soon afterward, the panic of 1893 led to a major economic depression. Cleveland tried to change the U.S. treasury system but was unable to improve the situation and received a lot of the blame for the country's economic troubles. Earlier

in 1892, Cleveland sent federal troops to end the Pullman railroad strike in Chicago. Although that move was favored by businesses, it angered union workers.

Although Cleveland was not always popular, his oldest daughter, Ruth, was so well liked that she had a candy bar named after her. Baby Ruth bars are still sold in stores today.



*An illustration of Cleveland's White House wedding to his much younger wife, Frances*

## *Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901) and William McKinley (1843-1901)*

Benjamin Harrison was an Indiana lawyer, an officer in the Civil War, and a senator. When he ran against Grover Cleveland for president, he got votes largely because his name was so well known. His grandfather, William Henry Harrison, had been president many years earlier. Harrison also had the backing of business leaders who wanted a high tariff, or tax, on imported goods. Harrison signed the McKinley Tariff Act, written by House member and future president William McKinley. The new tariff raised prices and increased profits for U.S. manufacturers. People with less money, such as farmers, laborers, and especially America's flood of new immigrants, were unhappy with the high prices. They also wanted better wages and working conditions. At the end of Harrison's term, President Cleveland was voted back in to office.

Although McKinley supported a high tariff, he was voted into office because the economy had worsened during Cleveland's second term. McKinley had been a lawyer, a congressman, and governor of Ohio. As a presidential candidate, McKinley received support from the powerful business and financial leaders in the Republican Party, who feared his opponent, William Jennings Bryan, would upset the economy by changing the basis of U.S. money from gold to silver.

The Spanish-American War marked McKinley's first term. American newspapers published sensational stories about Cuba's fight for independence from Spain, urging the United States to help free Cuba. This "yellow journalism" was only partly true, but it convinced many people that the United States should act. After the United States became involved in the Spanish-American War, Cuba won its independence, and the United States gained control of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam. McKinley later accepted Hawaii as a U.S. territory and divided the Samoan Islands with Germany. Only seven months into his second term, McKinley was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist who was disturbed by social injustice.



**Benjamin Harrison**  
23rd President  
Party: Republican  
Term: 1889-1893



**William McKinley**  
25th President  
Party: Republican  
Term: 1897-1901

## **Grover Cleveland to William Mckinley:**

- 1 Grover Cleveland was the first president to \_\_\_\_\_ while he was president.
- 2 What is strange about Cleveland's 2 terms of office?
- 3 What actions cause Cleveland to be known as an honest reformer?
- 4 Did Cleveland support Big Business or Workers in the Pullman Strike?
- 5 How did Benjamin Harrison show he favored Big Business over the common worker?
- 6 What did the McKinley Tariff Act do?
- 7 What jobs did Harrison have before becoming President?
- 8 What jobs did McKinley have before becoming President?
- 9 Why did the business and financial leaders of the Republican Party support McKinley?
- 10 What is "yellow journalism"?
- 11 What did America get out of the Spanish-American War?
- 12 What other land did McKinley help the US get?
- 13 Which of these 3 Presidents was assassinated?
- 14 Most people assume that the Baby Ruth candybar was named after the baseball player, Babe Ruth, but who was it really named after?